



*Worldwide*

# (U) Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 4 December 2024–1 January 2025

8 JANUARY 2025

ICOD: 1 January 2025

## (U) Executive Summary

### **(U) Scope**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) report provides information on threats to merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.<sup>1</sup>

**(U) Warnings, Advisories and Alerts:** See Appendix C for active advisories.

### **(U) Summary:**

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 December, three perpetrators in a small boat attempted to board a Singapore-flagged product tanker anchored at Belawan Anchorage in the Malacca Strait.
2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 29 December, three perpetrators armed with knives and iron bars boarded a bulk carrier while anchored at Chattogram Anchorage.
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 December, up to five robbers armed with gun-like objects boarded a Liberia-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).
4. (U) PHILIPPINES: (Late Reporting) On 21 December, four perpetrators boarded a Hong Kong-flagged container ship while anchored at the South Harbor Anchorage Area in Manila Bay.

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## (U) Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the past 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event that double-counting is detected, or an incident is later found to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

### (U) NORTH AMERICA

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA

1. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 21 December at 2230 local time, six pirates boarded a Cyprus-flagged offshore supply vessel while underway 83 NM west-northwest of Bata, near position 01:59N – 008:12E. The pirates boarded the vessel from a speedboat. All crew members took refuge in the vessel's citadel. After several failed attempts to access the citadel, the perpetrators damaged some of the vessel's navigation equipment and disembarked at approximately 0300 local time on 22 December. Following the incident, all crew members were reported safe. (MDAT-GoG; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 21 December at approximately 0120 local time, perpetrators in a small boat approached and fired upon a Liberia-flagged container ship while underway approximately 50 NM west-southwest of Bata, near position 01:38N – 008:55E. After the

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alarm was raised, all non-essential crew members mustered in the citadel. The small boat approached to within 0.75 NM of the container ship. After the vessel increased to maximum speed, the small boat broke off its pursuit. Following the incident, the vessel and all crew members were reported safe and proceeded to the next port of call. (MDAT-GoG; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GHANA: On 7 December at 2250 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:53N – 001:39W. After duty crew observed the perpetrators near the forecastle, the alarm was raised and the local authorities were notified. One of the robbers threatened the duty watchman while the two other robbers searched for items to steal. When a patrol boat approached the vessel, the robbers escaped with items of ship's property. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) BENIN: On 5 December at 2255 UTC, five perpetrators armed with AK-47 rifles boarded a fishing vessel operating approximately 9 NM southeast of Cotonou, near position 06:13N – 002:32E. The perpetrators boarded the fishing vessel from a wooden boat. Once onboard, the perpetrators took the crew hostage, stole two cell phones, and kidnapped the ship's master before escaping. Following the incident, the Benin Navy dispatched a patrol boat to escort the fishing vessel to an anchorage to conduct an investigation. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

**(U) ARABIAN GULF**

(U) No current incidents to report.

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## (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA

(U) No current incidents to report.

## (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA

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(U) Figure 1. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in Southeast Asia



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1. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 29 December at 1035 local time, three perpetrators attempted to board the Singapore-flagged product tanker *Sandpiper Pacific* from a small boat using the anchor chain. The tanker was anchored at Belawan Anchorage in the Malacca Strait, near position 03:55N – 098:44E. The duty crew spotted the boarding attempt and raised the alarm, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping empty-handed. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
2. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 28 December at 0114 local time, up to five robbers armed with gun-like objects boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier *Rostrum Hedonist* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:02N – 103:39E. Duty crew discovered the perpetrators in the steering gear room, which caused the perpetrators to escape. The Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the bulk carrier to investigate the incident and they confirmed that spare parts and a fuel pump had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
3. **(U) PHILIPPINES:** (Late Reporting) On 21 December at 2310 local time, four perpetrators boarded the Hong Kong-flagged container ship *Seaspan Lumaco* while anchored at the South Harbor Anchorage Area in Manila Bay, near position 14:32N – 120:52E. After the



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roving duty crew spotted the perpetrators at the forward deck, the crew reported to the duty watch officer who raised the alarm and contacted Manila authorities. The crew mustered and searched for the perpetrators, but they had escaped. A Philippine Coast Guard Maritime Patrol team was dispatched to the ship's location, searched the ship's perimeter, and confirmed that the perpetrators had already escaped. Further investigation revealed that nothing was stolen and that the crew was not injured. (ReCAAP)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 December at 0605 local time, three perpetrators boarded a Liberia-flagged tanker while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:39E. After duty crew spotted the perpetrators near the engine room, the master raised the alarm and the crew mustered to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found during the search, and nothing was reported stolen. The vessel required no assistance following the incident and proceeded to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
5. (U) VIETNAM: On 19 December at approximately 0400 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded a container ship anchored at Vung Tau Anchorage, near position 09:59N – 107:04E. The perpetrators stole items of ship's property and escaped unnoticed. Duty crew discovered the theft while on routine rounds. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 December at 2250 local time, four or five robbers boarded the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier *Cape Star* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:41E. Duty crew observed the perpetrators in the engine room. Three were armed with long knives, while another carried a gun-like object. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found during the search, and engine spare parts were reported stolen. All crew members were reported safe, and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 December at 0435 local time, four perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier *Am Ocean Pride* while anchored at Tarahan Anchorage, near position 05:31S – 105:18E. After duty crew on routine rounds discovered the perpetrators on the poop deck, the alarm was raised and the robbers escaped to a waiting boat. The incident was reported to local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 December at 0001 local time, six robbers armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier *Honor Star* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:34E. After crew spotted the perpetrators in the engine room, the master raised the alarm and mustered the crew to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found during the search, and engine spare parts were reported

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stolen. All crew members were reported safe, and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

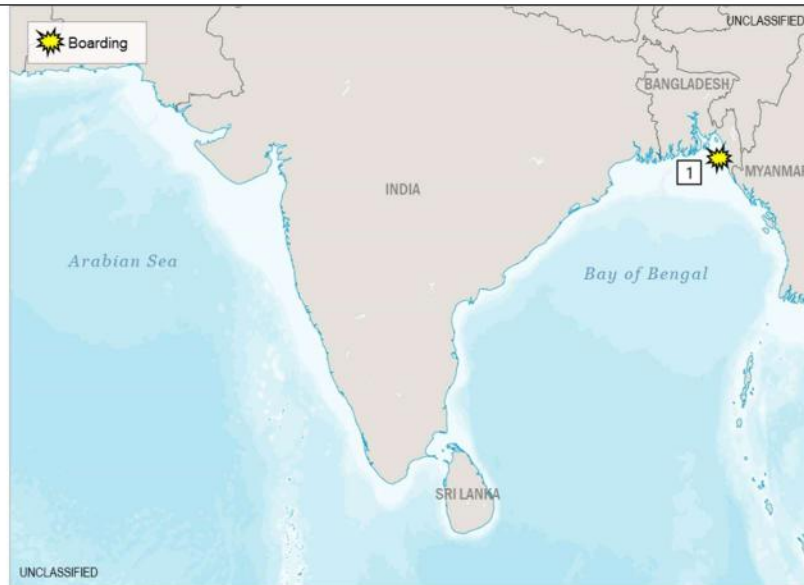
9. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 December at 0940 local time, two or three robbers boarded a barge being towed by the Singapore-flagged tug *HK Tug 9* approximately 8.4 NM northeast of Horsburgh Lighthouse, near position 01:25N – 104:32E. While underway, the master observed four small boats carrying three to five persons each approaching the barge. The perpetrators boarded the barge and transferred scrap metal from the barge to their boats. After the master sounded the ship's horn and altered course, the perpetrators escaped. All crew members were reported safe, and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
10. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 December at 0210 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker *Proteus Harvonne* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:41E. After the crew discovered them on the poop deck, the alarm was raised, and the perpetrators escaped the vessel. The master reported that one crew member was injured and that nothing was stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and proceeded to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics)
11. (U) INDONESIA: On 9 December at 0317 local time, an unspecified number of robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged tanker *Dalma* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:39E. While onboard, the perpetrators gained access to the emergency generator room and stole a breathing apparatus compressor. A duty crew member discovered the theft after finding the padlock to the emergency generator room was broken. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
12. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December at 2350 local time, eight unarmed robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier *Kyzikos* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:39E. After the crew spotted the perpetrators in the steering gear room, the master raised the alarm and mustered all crew to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found onboard. The master reported that engine spares were stolen and that all crew members were safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
13. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December at 0345 local time, six perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier *Genco Augustus* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:40E. After the duty crew spotted the perpetrators in the steering gear room, the master raised the alarm and mustered all crew. No perpetrators were found onboard. The master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew members were safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)



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## (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

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**(U) Figure 2. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in the Indian Subcontinent**

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1. **(U) BANGLADESH:** On 29 December at 0130 local time, three perpetrators armed with knives and iron bars boarded a bulk carrier while anchored at Chattogram Anchorage, near position 21:49N – 091:46E. The duty crew spotted the perpetrators attempting to break into the forecastle store. The perpetrators threatened the duty crew member, who managed to escape and raise the alarm. The perpetrators also threatened a watchman who responded to the alarm, before they escaped empty-handed into a waiting boat with four other persons. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 19 December at 2130 local time, up to seven robbers armed with machetes boarded a heavy load carrier while anchored at Chattogram Anchorage, near position 21:35N – 091:47E. Before escaping in a wooden boat, the perpetrators threatened a duty crew member, and stole the crew member's mobile phone, UHF radio, and items of ship's property. Following the incident, all crew members were reported safe and the incident was reported to Port Control. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

## (U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

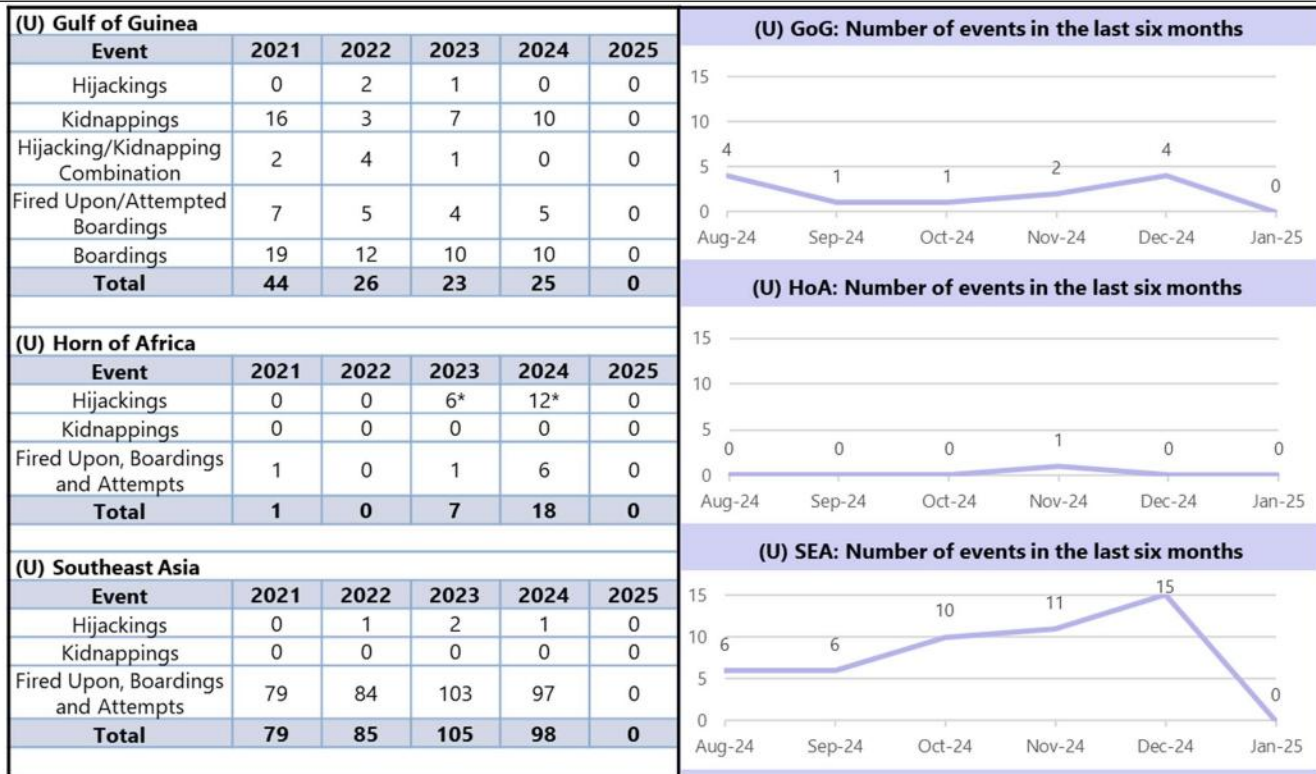
(U) No current incidents to report.

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# (U) Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends

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## (U) Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends



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(U) \* HORN OF AFRICA HIJACKING NUMBERS INCLUDE DHOWS AND FISHING VESSELS

## (U) Appendix B: Definitions

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, we use the following definitions to describe a range of criminal antishipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis.

- > (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- > (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- > (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized embarkation of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- > (U) **Fired Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- > (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- > (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- > (U) **Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement who forcefully remove crew members from vessel when disembarking.
- > (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- > (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

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## (U) Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories<sup>2</sup>

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### (U) Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
<a href="#">2024-014: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	20 Dec 2024	17 Jun 2025
<a href="#">2024-013: Global – U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts</a>	11 Oct 2024	11 Apr 2025
<a href="#">2024-011: Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence</a>	9 Oct 2024	7 Apr 2025
<a href="#">2024-012: Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations</a>	6 Sep 2024	21 Feb 2025
<a href="#">2024-010: Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025
<a href="#">2024-009: Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman – Iranian Illegal Boarding/Detention/Seizure</a>	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025
<a href="#">2024-008: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden – Houthi Attacks on Commercial Vessels</a>	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025

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